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RURAL DISTRICT OF ROMNEY MARSH, KENT

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1963





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ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health
and Public Health Inspector for the Year 1963.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1963.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 4,760 which was an increase of 80 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Birth Rate

The number of live births was 86 (32 M. 54 F.) which was an increase of 4 over that of the previous year and the corresponding crude birth rate was 18.07 when adjusted, however, by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and allows comparison with other Districts the crude rate becomes 21.63 and was rather higher than that of 18.2 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

No stillbirths were registered and the stillbirth rate was accordingly nil in comparison with that of 17.3 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Three infant deaths were registered due to:-

- (i) Prematurity - 26 weeks
- (ii) Prematurity - 26 weeks
- (iii) Congenital Oesophageal Atresia - Prematurity.

The infantile mortality rate was accordingly 34.88 compared with that of 20.9 for England and Wales.

(The above figures are however too small to provide valid comparative rates).

The hard core of causes of Perinatal Mortality (i.e. stillbirths and infant deaths under one week of age) is prematurity, asphyxia and atelectasis, birth injuries and congenital malformations and the most important maternal factor is toxæmia of pregnancy.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion, and signifies the high standard of modern obstetric practice.

Total Deaths and Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 86 (32 M. 54 F.) and the corresponding crude death rate was 13.24 after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and affords comparison with other Districts, the adjusted rate was 10.52 in comparison with that of 12.2 for England and Wales.

The majority of the deaths were amongst the aged from natural causes, namely, Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System; if those there were 30.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart was the cause of ten of those deaths, in the following age groups:- 2 between 55 - 64 yrs.; 5 between 65 - 74 yrs.; and 3 over 75 years.

Cancer was the cause of 14 deaths, in the following age groups:- 3 between 35 - 44 yrs.; 2 between 55 - 64 yrs.; 2 between 65 - 74 yrs.; and 7 over 75 years.

Cancer of the lungs was the cause of 4 deaths (3 M. 1 F.). Male deaths invariably predominate to those of females in an approximate ratio of 4 to 1, and may be related to the ratio of male to female cigarette smokers. The deaths were in the following age groups:- 1 between 55 - 64 yrs.; 1 between 65 - 74 yrs.; and 2 over 75 years.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no exceptional mortality.

The Infectious Diseases

Apart from the expected bi-ennial outbreak of Measles, the incidence of Infectious Disease was very low.

None of the more serious infections occurred, namely Poliomyelitis, Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fevers, Diphtheria, Bacterial Meningitis and others.

Measles

The expected bi-ennial outbreak of Measles occurred, 90 cases having been notified, but there were no deaths. The more serious complications of former years, namely Broncho-pneumonia, Acute Otitis Media and more rarely Acute Encephalitis, are now comparatively infrequent, and the former two usually respond to treatment with the Antibiotics.

Whooping Cough

Only two cases of this distressful children's infectious disease were notified, which may be attributed to the vaccination scheme - a notable achievement of medical science against a disease which in past years has caused so much lung damage and innumerable deaths.

Shore Dysentery

Four cases of this bowel infection were notified. Fortunately it is a mild disease causing diarrhoea, with or without blood, for several days and many patients do not consult their family Doctors; as a result, there are many carriers who disseminate the disease. Personal hygiene, that is the washing of hands after toilet and before meals is the simple precaution in breaking the chain of infection.

Tuberculosis

One new case of Respiratory Tuberculosis was notified - in the 15 - 24 yrs. age group.

No new case of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis was notified, which is an index of the safety of the milk supplies from Bovine Tuberculosis.

Also, there were no deaths which is a reflection of the efficacy of modern treatment.

In conclusion, I would state that the Public Health of the District was very satisfactory throughout the year and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest in the Department and the staff for their co-operation and efficiency.

I am,

The Central Public Health
Office,

14, Church Rd.,
Ashford, Kent.

Tel. No: Ashford 1485.

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL. M.B., Ch., B., D.P.H.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE

DISTRICT FOR 1963

Area:- 31,031 acres

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	4,760
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	...	...	1,960
Rateable Value	...	...	£150,795
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£623

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Romney Marsh Rural District is essentially agricultural in character and interests but, as part of the boundary is formed by the sea with wide expanses of sand, there is considerable catering for the large numbers of holiday-makers and weekend trippers who are attracted to the district, and associated there are large holiday-camps and licensed caravan sites. There is negligible unemployment and social conditions are generally satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Romney Marsh Rural District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1. <u>Live Births</u>	86	32	54	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	18.07 (Adjusted Rate 21.68)	18.2
(a) Legitimate	82	31	51			
(b) Illegitimate	4	1	3			
2. <u>Stillbirths</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil	17.3
(a) Legitimate	-	-	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. <u>Total live and stillbirths</u>	86	32	54			
4. <u>Deaths</u>	63	33	30	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	13.24 (Adjusted Rate 10.52)	12.2
5. <u>Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	Nil	Not Available
6. <u>Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age</u>	3	1	2	Rate per 1,000 live births	34.88	20.9
(a) Legitimate	3	1	2	Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	36.59	
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	
7. <u>Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age</u>	3	1	2	Rate per 1,000 live births	34.88	Not Available
(a) Legitimate	3	1	2			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
8. <u>Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births</u>					4.65%	
9. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				...	14	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				...	-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea				...	-	
Deaths from Measles				...	-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

Measles	...	...	...	90
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	4

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT
DURING 1963

ALL CAUSES				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
				33	30
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	2	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	3	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	4	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	-	-
16.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	1	8
17.	Diabetes	...	...	-	-
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	5	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	4	4
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	-	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	3	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	4	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	-	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	3	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	-	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	2	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1963

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Total Cases on Register</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	10	3	3
1 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
55 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Total	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-				

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.

IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation and whooping cough immunisation figures for 1963 based on the returns submitted to the Ministry of Health.

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Diphtheria Immunisation (Singly or in combination)</u>		<u>Whooping Cough Immunisation (Singly or in combination)</u>
	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Reinforcing</u>	<u>Primary</u>
1963	18	Nil	18
1962	26	3	26
1961	3	19	3
1960	Nil	8	Nil
1959	Nil	5	Nil
1954-1958	1	36	1
1949-1953	Nil	1	Nil
Total	48	72	48

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The following Table shows the Poliomyelitis Vaccination figures for 1963 based on the Return submitted to the Ministry of Health.

<u>Year</u>	<u>2 Injections (Salk)</u>	<u>3rd Dose (Salk and Oral)</u>	<u>4th Dose (Salk and Oral)</u>	<u>3 Orals (Complete Course)</u>
1963	-	-	57	6
1962	-	4	-	44
1961	2	9	-	4
1957-1960	-	4	-	3
1943-1956	-	3	-	-
1933-1942	-	1	-	-
Others	-	4	-	1

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

<u>Primary Vaccination</u>	<u>Re-Vaccination School Age but Under 8 years</u>
6	-

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLY

The quantity of water supplied to the area is adequate and none of the supplies is plumbo solvent.

- | | | | |
|------|---|-----|-------|
| (i) | Number of dwellings not supplied by public water mains or other adequate piped supplies | ... | 24 |
| (ii) | Number of dwellings in the area | ... | 1,960 |

There were no extensions to water mains during the year, and no action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The St. Mary's Bay and Dymchurch main drainage scheme has been completed and connections are proceeding; 1,050 connections have been made leaving about 110 outstanding. The scheme is working satisfactorily allowing for various teething troubles. The effluent has been up to and above the Royal Commission Standard.

FOOD (INCLUDING ICE CREAM AND MILK) AND FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|
| (i) | (a) | the number of food premises in the area | ... | 139 |
| | (b) | the number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 | | |
| | | (i) Retailers of Ice Cream | ... | 28 |
| | | (ii) Preparation and manufacture of Sausages and Preserved Foods etc. | ... | 6 |
| | (c) | the number of inspections of registered food premises | | 7 |
| | (d) | the method of disposal of condemned food - to Rural District's Refuse Tip. | | |

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Number of inspections of:-

Bakehouses	...	1
Butchers and meat products manufacturers	...	1
Catering Establishment and Clubs	...	5
Dairies	...	None
Fish (including fried)	...	1
Licensed Premises	...	2
Slaughterhouses	...	None
Stalls, Itinerant Vendors and delivery vans	...	2
All other Food Premises	...	12

<u>Number of Informal (including Verbal) Notices Served (Food and Drugs Act - Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955)</u>	...	2
---	-----	---

Number of Food Premises improved as a result of notices served	...	2
--	-----	---

Inspection of Food and Food-preparing Premises

(A) Brief particulars of any action taken, including inspections of meat and other foods, slaughterhouses, stalls, vehicles and food-preparing places:-

Inspection of food and food-preparing premises have been on a very low scale due to pressure of work in other directions.

(B) Observation on manufacture and sale of ice-cream in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 - 1959.

All ice-cream sold within the district is pre-wrapped by large manufacturers outside the district.

(ii) Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 (Part 111)•
Milk and Dairies (General Regulations, 1959 (Part 111)

No. of registered distributors	...	14
No. of registered dairies	....	None

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Unsound Food Surrendered

Potatoes	16½ cwt.
Prawns	56 lbs.

Total weight condemned 17 cwt.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

(Summary of quarterly returns by local authorities to Ministry of Housing and Local Government in P.13 Hsg. for the year ending 31st December).

A. Houses demolished

In Clearance Areas (Housing Act 1957)	<u>Houses Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	None		
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	None		
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	None		
<u>Not in Clearance Areas</u>			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957.	None		
B. <u>Unfit Houses Closed</u>			
	<u>Number</u>		
(5) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957.	2 informally		
(6) Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	None		
(7) Parts of buildings closed under (Section 18, Housing Act, 1957)	None		

C. Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(8) After informal action by local authority	7	
(9) After formal notice under -		
(a) Public Health Acts	None	
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	None	
(10) Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	None	

D. Unfit Houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957)

<u>Position at end of year</u>	<u>No. of houses</u> (1)	<u>Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)</u> (2)
(11) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	None	
(b) Under Section 17(2)	None	
(c) Under Section 46	None	
(12) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	None	

<u>E. Purchase of Houses by agreement</u>	<u>No. of houses</u> (1)	<u>Number of occupants of houses in column (1)</u> (2)
(13) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders purchased in the year.	None	

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS. GRANTS

No standard grants were applied for. Twelve discretionary grants were applied for and given - covering thirteen houses. Total amount of grant £3,793.

INSPECTIONS - Summary of Inspections made:-

Public Health Act, 1936 and Housing Act, 1957

Number of inspections of dwellings re repairs	...	17
Number of dwellings made fit	...	13
Number of inspections for purposes of Sections 16/17 Housing Act. (Demolition and Closing Orders)	...	Nil
Number of inspections of clearance areas	...	Nil
Number of inspections for general survey and assessment	...	Nil

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958
Housing Subsidies and Standard Grant

Number of inspections made in connection with Improvement Grants	...	17
Number of inspections in connection with Standard Grants	...	Nil

INSPECTIONS (Contd.)

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and Rents Act, 1957

Number of inspections re Certificates of Disrepair	Nil
Number of inspections re Certificates as to Remedying of Defects	Nil

Housing (General)

Number of inspections re housing applications	5
---	---

Public Health Act

Number of inspections re:-

Pents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	5
Aged and Infirm Persons	...	...	4
Vermin	...	...	Nil
Dirty Houses	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations	...	...	Nil
Offensive odours	...	...	Nil
Nuisance from Keeping of Animals	...	...	3

NOTICES SERVED

	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>
Public Health Acts	5	Nil
Housing Acts	Nil	Nil

HOUSING

(i) No. of families on Council's waiting list at 31st Dec.	144
(ii) No. of Council houses built during the year	Nil
(iii) No. of Private houses built during the year	37

SUPERVISION OF HOP-PICKERS CAMPS

There are no hop-pickers camps in the area.

HOLIDAY CAMPS

Names and Addresses of Holiday Camps and number accommodated in each

Beach Holiday Camp, Dymchurch - 900 plus staff (100 approx)
Golden Sands Holiday Camp, St. Mary's Bay - 350 plus staff (25 approx)
St. Mary's Bay Holiday Camp - 1,200 plus staff (120 approx)

CARAVAN SITES

Names and addresses of Caravan Sites and number of Caravans on each site.

Eastfleet Caravan Site, Dymchurch - 120 vans
Apps Caravan Site, St. Mary's Bay - 50 vans
Jones Caravan Site, Warren Farm, Dymchurch Road, New Romney - 25 vans
4 acres tents
Pipers Caravan Site, Dymchurch - 450 vans and chalets

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

A new cesspool emptier vehicle was purchased and the old one sold.

No. cesspools emptied - 1,362

No. of loads - 2,183

DRAINAGE

Total number of inhabited houses (including Flats) is	...	1,960
Total number of houses connected to the sewers	...	1,219
Number of houses not connected to the sewers	...	741
Number of premises connected to cesspools	...	741
Number of premises with pail closets	....	Not known

REFUSE COLLECTIONS AND DISPOSAL

No. of loads - 786

DISINFESTATION

No disinfestation was required during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health
(including inspection made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Reg- ister (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	4	-	-
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	6	1	-	-
Total	16	5	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No: of cases in which prosecution were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspec- tor (4)	By H.M. Inspec- tor (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	-	-

OUTWORK - There are no outworkers employed in the district

RODENT CONTROL	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All Other (including Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	10	1887	275	2172	256
2. Total number of properties inspected as a result of notification	-	33	21	54	16
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common Rat Major	2	5	9	16	-
Minor	1	84	5	90	includes ii, iii, iv
Ship Rat Major					
Minor					
House mouse Major		1		1	
Minor		4	3	7	
3. Total number of properties inspected in the course of survey under the Act.	10	191	69	270	43
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common Rat Major					
Minor					
Ship Rat Major					
Minor					
House mouse Major					
Minor					
4. Total number of properties otherwise inspected (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)		19	13	32	14
Number of such properties found to be infested by:-					
Common Rat Major					
Minor					
Ship Rat Major					
Minor					
House mouse Major					
Minor					
5. Total inspection carried out incl. re-inspections (To be completed only if figures are readily available)		Not available			
6. Number of infested properties (in Secs. 1, 2, 3 & 4 treated by L.A.)					

RODENT CONTROL (Cont.)	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All Other (including Business Premises)	Total of (1) & 2)	Agricul- tural
7. Total treatments carried out incl. re-treatments.	Not known				
8. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act:	Nil				
(a) Treatment					
(b) Structural Work (i.e. Proofing)	Nil				
9. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act.	Nil				
10. Legal proceedings (See 12 below)	Nil				
11. Where legal proceedings have been instituted by the Local Authority brief particulars should be given here:-	Nil				
12. Any other points of interest	Nil				

